



December 15, 2005

Dan Leavitt
High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Leavitt,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley High Speed Rail Coalition, I write to express our strong support for the inclusion of the Pacheco Pass alignment, and variations of that alignment, in the California High Speed Rail Authority's Northern Mountain Crossing Study.

The Silicon Valley High Speed Rail Coalition strongly urges the High Speed Rail Authority to give thorough consideration to the Pacheco Pass, and variations of that alignment, as the route by which high-speed trains would enter the San Francisco Bay Area. We urge the CHSRA to drop from consideration any route that would bisect the Isabel and San Antonio Valleys, just north of Coe Park. Such a route would have significant negative impacts on the sensitive wildlife corridors in this remote region of the Mount Hamilton Range.

Although we know the Altamont Pass alignment will be studied in the Bay Area EIR/EIS, we would like to take this opportunity to restate our opposition to this alignment. We believe the environmental and operational reasons that the Authority gave for rejecting this alignment in the statewide EIR were sound and still stand.

Thank you for your hard work on this important project. We look forward to the completion of the Bay Area specific EIR/EIS and appreciate the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

Laura Stuchinsky
Director of Transportation and Land Use
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

cc: Bay Area Regional Rail Plan

Congressman Mike Honda
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
State Senator Elaine Alquist
State Senator Abel Maldonado
Assembly Member Simon Salinas
Assembly Member Rebecca Cohn
Assembly Member Joe Coto
Advocates for Coe Park
Applied Materials
Associated General Contractors
of California
Building and Construction Trades
Council of San Mateo County
California Apartment Association,
Tri-County Division
Caltrain
CELSOC-Santa Clara County
Chapter
City of San Jose
City of Santa Clara
City of Sunnyvale
Coherent, Inc.
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce
Dianne McKenna, board member,
Peninsula Open Space Trust and
former member of the California
Transportation Commission
Operating Engineers, Local Union
No. 3
Pine Ridge Association
Sally Probst, housing advocate
Redwood City-San Mateo County/
Chamber of Commerce
SAMCEDA
San Jose Downtown Association
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber
of Commerce
San Jose Convention & Visitors
Bureau
Santa Clara & San Benito
Counties Building & Construction
Trades Council
Santa Clara County
Santa Clara Valley Transportation
Authority
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Solectron Corporation
Town of Los Gatos